



S.C. Department of Health and
Environmental Control

South Carolina Required Standards of Immunization for Childcare Facility

Immunization Division
2100 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201
Phone: (800) 277-4687
Fax: (803) 898-0326
immunize@dhec.sc.gov

Revised: April 25, 2023

Table of Contents

	Page
South Carolina State Law.....	1
Children Subject to South Carolina Law.....	1
Exemptions.....	2
Procedures for Enrolling New Children.....	2
Monitoring Visits.....	3
Day Care Provider Penalties.....	3
Acceptable Certificates of Immunization.....	4
Immunizations Required for Day Care Attendance.....	6

South Carolina State Law

According to Section 44-29-180 of the South Carolina State Law, “no owner or operator of a public or private childcare facility . . . may . . . enroll or retain a child or person who cannot produce satisfactory evidence of having been vaccinated or immunized so often as directed by the Department of Health and Environmental Control . . . The Department of Health and Environmental Control shall monitor the immunization status of each child who is enrolled or retained in a licensed child day care facility or a registered church or religious child day care facility. The monitoring of day care facilities shall consist of a review of the immunization or vaccination records to insure that required immunizations are complete as recommended and routinely provided by the Department of Health and Environmental Control for all infants and children.” The Required Standards of Immunization for Day Care Attendance and the Required Standards of Immunization for School Attendance will be published and distributed by DHEC annually to health care providers.

- » *Children enrolled in Pre-K or 4K programs and younger must meet day care requirements, even if attendance is in a school setting.*
- » *Children enrolled in grades 5K or greater who also attend a day care facility (e.g., after school and/or summer programs) must meet school immunization requirements.*

Registered Family Day Care Homes are the only day care providers exempt from this law, although DHEC recommends that they follow the same procedures as required by other day care providers.

Children Subject to South Carolina Law

The South Carolina Certificate of Immunization is the official form to document childhood immunization compliance with SC Day Care Requirements. **Parents of children enrolled in a day care facility must provide a valid South Carolina Certificate of Immunization to the day care provider if:**

- *The child is at least 3 months of age*
- *The child attends on a full-time or part-time basis*
- *The child attends on a drop-in basis*

All children at least 3 months of age who attend daycare must have a South Carolina Certificate of Immunization on file. Photocopies of the certificate are acceptable. The day care provider should contact the Regional DHEC representative for assistance regarding the validity of any questionable certificates.

Exemptions

Parents of children enrolled in a day care facility are not required to provide a South Carolina Certificate of Immunization if:

- *The child is less than three (3) months of age.*
- *The child has been enrolled less than thirty (30) calendar days. An exception may be made for children displaced by a natural disaster and other homeless children for whom immunization records are not available or accessible. For children impacted by such events, DHEC should be consulted for recommendations on obtaining appropriate immunizations.*
- *The parent/guardian presents a valid South Carolina Certificate of Religious Exemption to the child day care provider. The South Carolina Certificate of Religious Exemption must be obtained by the parent/guardian from the local health department.*
- *The child is exempt under federal law.*

Procedures for Enrolling New Children

Parents of children who are new to your day care facility may be allowed a 30-day grace period to submit the required certificate of immunization for that child. By the 30th calendar day of enrollment, the parent must present the day care with a South Carolina Certificate of Immunization. If the parent does not present the required certificate within this timeframe, day care provider is not permitted to continue the child's enrollment. If a parent brings a child back to the day care facility after the grace period has passed and does not provide a certificate, under penalty of law, the day care provider must not allow the child to attend.

Monitoring Visits

- » Immunization certificates of enrolled children at least three (3) months of age and older will be monitored during unannounced yearly visits by DHEC representatives.
- » Daycare staff must make immunization certificates and a roster of enrolled children available to the DHEC representative. The child's name on the roster must match the name on the certificate.
- » In the event certificates are found that are not in compliance with SC Day Care Law, the day care provider may fax or mail valid immunization certificates within 30 calendar days of the date of the initial monitoring visit to the DHEC representative for review. If student identifying information is restricted via fax or mail, follow up will be on site.
- » If the certificates aren't received within 30 days, the DHEC representative will return in 30-45 calendar days after the initial monitoring visit for follow up.
- » Immunization certificates must be valid at the time of this follow up visit.
- » If the immunization certificates are still invalid at this follow up visit this will be reported to the DHEC Immunization Director or designee.
- » If certificates are acceptable upon follow up, the DHEC representative will give the day care facility a letter indicating the facility is in compliance with the state immunization law.

Day Care Provider Penalties

In addition to any action taken by the Department of Social Services (DSS) Division of Child Day Care Licensing and Regulatory Services, **penalties for non-compliance exist under 44-29- 190 of the South Carolina Code of Laws. This law states that owners and operators of day care facilities who violate Section 44-29-180 are "guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, may be fined not more than \$200.00 or imprisoned for not more than 30 days."** Non-compliance is defined as follows:

- ***No certificate of immunization on file or***
- ***Lack of required documentation, including:***
 - » *child's name and date of birth;*
 - » *expiration date for next immunization due (if necessary or if expiration date is expired);*
 - » *immunization history;*
 - » *day care and/or school certification, as applicable;*
 - » *Physician name, Authorized Representative name (if applicable), or signature of person completing certificate (Physician or Authorized Representative).*

Each incident of non-compliance with the state law and regulation is a separate incident of violation. Each certificate is a separate violation, and each day is a separate violation. For certificates found to be out of compliance during the initial monitoring visit, day care providers must correct all deficiencies within the time frame specified by the DHEC representative. Day care facilities failing to rectify all deficiencies within the specified time period will be deemed in violation of Section 44-19-180, and subject to penalties for non-compliance under Section 44-29-190.

Acceptable Certificates of Immunization

Child day care facilities must maintain a valid certificate of immunization for all enrolled children at least 3 months of age and older.

Acceptable certificates of immunization are:

- South Carolina Certificate of Immunization, DHEC 4024
- Military Certification of South Carolina School and Childcare Immunization Requirement, DHEC 4375, which must have the child's military immunization attached.

Children enrolled in pre-K and 4K programs or younger must meet the Required Standards of Immunization for Day Care Attendance. These children should present a South Carolina Certificate of Immunization, DHEC 4024, or Military Certification of South Carolina School and Childcare Immunization Requirement, DHEC 4375, with the following certification status marked, as applicable:

- **"Meets Childcare Requirements" or "Meets all SC Childcare Requirements"**: If child has received all required immunizations for day care attendance.
- **"Certificate Expires" or "Next Date Vaccination(s) Due"**: If child has not yet received all required immunizations for day care attendance.
 - » The date written should correspond to the date the next immunization is due.
 - » The child may attend day care for no more than one month from the date indicated.

Children enrolled in 5K or greater AND attending a child day care facility (e.g., after school and/or summer program) must meet the Required Standards of Immunization for School Attendance (immunization requirements appropriate for school grade level). These children should present a South Carolina Certificate of Immunization, DHEC 4024, or Military Certification of South Carolina School and Childcare Immunization Requirement, DHEC 4375, with any of the following certification status (as applicable):

- **"Meets Requirements for 5K-6th grade"**
- **"Meets the Requirements for 7th-12th grade"**
- **"Meets all SC School Requirements"**
- **"Certificate Expires" or "Next Date Vaccination(s) Due"**: This box should be checked if the enrolled child has not yet received all required immunizations for school grade level ("catching up").

SOUTH CAROLINA CERTIFICATE OF IMMUNIZATION
SC Law 96-26 (H&SC Code of Regulations 61-6)
Certificate number (complete according to form instructions)
By a Licensed Practitioner of Medicine, Surgery, or Dentistry, or by a Nurse authorized representative.

CERTIFICATION STATUS

(1) Certificate Expires	(2) Meets Childcare Requirements	(3) Meets all SC Childcare Requirements	(4) Meets all SC School Requirements	(5) Meets the Requirements for 7th-12th grade	(6) Temporary Exemption (complete date of expiration)	(7) Permanent Medical Exemption (complete date of expiration)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Sex: _____

Vaccines: _____

Immunization Status: _____

Signature of Licensed Practitioner or Nurse: _____

Signature of parent/guardian: _____

Signature of child: _____

Military Certification of South Carolina School and Childcare Immunization Requirements

(1) Complete name and date of birth.
(2) Select one immunization status option.
(3) Sign form.
(4) Staple to the DD-2766-C or P-0630 form.

Child/Student Name: _____

Child/Student Date of Birth: _____

Sex: _____

Select one of the immunization status options:

(1) Meets all SC School Requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>
(2) Meets all SC Childcare Requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>
(3) Does NOT meet all immunization requirements for school/childcare	<input type="checkbox"/>
(4) Next date vaccination(s) due: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
(5) Permanent Medical Exemption to the following: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
(6) Temporary Medical Exemption to the following vaccine(s): _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
(7) Until designated date: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Provider Signature (or designee): _____

Date: _____

DO NOT USE STAMP

*Child may attend childcare or school for no more than one month from the date

- » The date written should correspond to the date the next immunization is due.
- » The child may attend day care for no more than 30 days from the date indicated.

Enrolled children who are unable to receive timely immunizations due to medical reasons should present a South Carolina Certificate of Immunization, DHEC 4024, or Military Certification of South Carolina School and Childcare Immunization Requirement, DHEC 4375, with the **“Medical Exemption” box checked and the “Medical Exemption” section completed by the medical provider.**

- *A child with a permanent medical exemption will not receive future doses of the listed vaccines.*
- *A child receiving a temporary medical exemption from a healthcare provider will be due for the listed vaccines when the date documented for the temporary exemption has expired.*
 - » *The child may attend day care for no more than 30 days from the expiration date for the temporary exemption noted in the “Medical Exemption” section of the immunization certificate.*

The Certificate of Immunization, DHEC 4024, or Military Certification of South Carolina School and Childcare Immunization Requirement, DHEC 4375, must contain the name and date of birth of the enrolled child. If the certificate does not contain the name of the child and the child’s date of birth, the certificate is considered invalid. The Certificate of Immunization, DHEC 4024, or Military Certification of South Carolina School and Childcare Immunization Requirement, DHEC 4375, must also include the signature of the person completing the certificate (physician or authorized representative) and date of issue.

Immunizations Required for Day Care Attendance

By This Age:	Minimum Number of Required Doses:							
3 months ¹	2 Hep B	1 DTaP ²	1 Hib ³	1 PCV ⁴	1 IPV			
5 months	2 Hep B	2 DTaP ²	2 Hib ³	2 PCV ⁴	2 IPV			
7 months	2 Hep B	3 DTaP ²	2-3 Hib ³	3 PCV ⁴	2 IPV			
13 months	2 Hep B	3 DTaP ²	2-3 Hib ³	3 PCV ⁴	2 IPV			
16 months	2 Hep B	3 DTaP ²	3-4 Hib ³	4 PCV ⁴	2 IPV	1 MMR	1 VAR	
19 months	3 Hep B	4 DTaP ²	3-4 Hib ³	4 PCV ⁴	3 IPV	1 MMR	1 VAR	1 Hep A ⁵
2 years	3 Hep B	4 DTaP ²	3-4 Hib ³	4 PCV ⁴	3 IPV	1 MMR	1 VAR	2 Hep A ⁵
4 years (childcare and/or 4-K)	3 Hep B	4 DTaP ²	3-4 Hib ³	4 PCV ⁴	3 IPV	1 MMR	1 VAR	2 Hep A ⁵

¹ Minimum immunization requirement for childcare entry for all infants under 3 months of age.

² Any combination of **DTP**, **DT**, or **DTaP** vaccine.

³ **Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) 3 Dose Series** (*PedvaxHIB*) – One dose by 3 months; second dose by 5 months and third dose by 16 months of age; OR, **4 Dose Series** (*ActHIB, Hiberix, or Pentacel*) – One dose by 3 months; second dose by 5 months; third dose by 7 months and fourth dose 16 months of age. For children 15 – 59 months of age who have not yet completed an age-appropriate Hib vaccination series, one (1) dose of Hib vaccine at or after 15 months of age is required. Hib vaccine is not required for children 5 years of age and older.

⁴ **Pneumococcal conjugate (PCV)** – For children aged 24 – 59 months who have not yet completed any age-appropriate pneumococcal vaccination, one (1) dose of PCV on or after the 2nd birthday is required. PCV is not required for children 5 years of age and older.

⁵ **Hepatitis A (Hep A)** – One dose must be administered no later than 18 months of age.

**If you have questions about immunizations
or immunization certificates,
call your Regional Immunization Program Manager
or contact the Immunization Division at 800-277-4687.**



S.C. Department of Health and
Environmental Control

www.scdhec.gov

CR-010645 04/23